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City of Duluth Police Department

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For more information contact the Police Chief's Office at 730-5400



DATE: July 13, 2009
SUBJECT: Homicide Media Conference by Deputy Chief John Beyer
CASE #:09316258
INCIDENT DATE: July 12, 2009
INCIDENT TIME: 2201 hours
INCIDENT LOCATION: 200 Block of East #5 Alley
NATURE OF INCIDENT: Shooting/Homicide
BY: Brad Wick, Public Information Officer

Description: On Sunday, July 12, 2009, at 10:01 p.m., Duluth Police responded to the report of a shooting in the 200 Block of East #5 Alley.

Officers arriving on scene located two male gunshot victims near 419 N. 2nd Avenue East. Curtis Michael Cooney D.O.B. 08/10/1986 sustained a single gunshot wound to the head. Cooney was transported to a local hospital where was pronounced dead. Ephriam Darell Burks D.O.B. 08-01-1987 sustained a gunshot wound to his leg and was transported to a local hospital. Burk's injury is not life threatening.

Just prior to the shooting Cooney, Burks and several other individuals were inside 419 N. 2nd Avenue East when they were told that there were three persons outside with baseball bats. They when out side and exchanged a few words with the three individuals just prior to the shots being fired. The only suspect information the police department is releasing at this time is the three suspects are all believed to be black males.

Numerous witness statements were taken at the scene. In addition, the crime scene was secured and processed. Numerous spent shell casings were recovered from the shooting scene.

The police believe this shooting may be related to a disturbance call at the rear of 221 East 4th Street approximately an hour and twenty minutes prior to the shooting. This call involved one of the shooting victims and several other individuals. The investigation into the incident is active and ongoing. No arrests have been made at this time. The police are asking that anyone with information on this shooting call the Duluth Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit at 218-730-5050.